

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05956 211900Z

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TAGS: SOCI, GK, US

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS VISITS ATHENS AND PLEDGES  
ASSISTANCE FROM GREEK-AMERICANS

1. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, PRIMATE OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH (NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA), ARRIVED IN ATHENS AUGUST 17 FOR PURPOSE OF "EXAMINING POSSIBILITIES FOR ASSISTING EFFORTS OF HELLENISM AT PRESENT TIME," AS WELL AS TO TRANSMIT THE GREETINGS OF "TWO AND A HALF MILLION GREEK-AMERICANS" TO NEW GOVERNMENT. IAKOVOS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF HIS ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL AND IS EXPECTED TO DEPART ATHENS AUGUST 21 FOR U.S.

2. IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT IAKOVOS NOTED THAT "CHANGE IN PUBLIC OPINION" HAD OCCURRED IN FAVOR OF GREECE AND THIS WAS OBSERVABLE IN U.S. PRESS, RADIO AND TV REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES. HE EXPRESSED "ANGUISH" OVER THE MARTYRDOM OF CYPRUS AND ALSO EXPERIENCED ANGUISH OF "A WOUNDED AMERICAN CITIZEN" AS A RESULT OF "INCORRECT ESTIMATION AND APPRECIATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES (I.E., RELEVANT TO CYPURS) ON PART OF THOSE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO HAVE MADE A MORE CORRECT AND PRECISE APPRAISAL OF PROBLEM."

3. IAKOVOS DELIVERED SERMON IN GREEK ORTHODOX CATHDRAL  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05956 211900Z

AUGUST 18 IN WHICH HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALING THE

DIVISION IN HELLENISM. HE ASSURED CONGREGATION THAT HE BROUGHT THEM THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF TWO AND A HALF MILLION GREEK-AMERICANS AND THAT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AND BY STRONG PROTESTS IN THE U.S. HE DENOUNCED TURKS FOR FIGHTING "AN UNJUST AND BANDIT WAR" AND ASSERTED THEY HAD VIOLATED ALL INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES. HE REMINDED CONGREGATION THAT TEN YEARS AGO "ON THE EVE OF THE HOLIDAY OF THE VIRGIN MARY IN 1964 (AUGUST 15), THE GREEKS OF CYPRUS WERE EVEN THEN BEING BOMBARDED BY 'NAPALM BOMBS MADE IN THE USA AND INTENDED FOR THE USE OF NATO'". TURNING THEN TO VALUE OF PUBLIC OPINION IAKOVOS REFERRED TO THE "RECENT PERSONAL DRAMA OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT WHICH AFFORDED ALL OF US A LESSON ABOUT THE VALUE OF MORAL AND SPIRITUAL ASSETS AS OPPOSED TO MATERIAL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL POWER."

4. IN THE COURSE OF MEETINGS ON AUGUST 17 THROUGH AUGUST 20, IAKOVOS DISCUSSED WITH PM CARAMANLIS, DEPUTY PM MAVROS AND OTHER GREEK OFFICIALS (PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MATTERS) BOTH "THE MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS MATERIAL ASSISTANCE" WHICH GREEK-AMERICANS CAN PROVIDE TO HELLENISM AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, VRADYNI AUGUST 19 HEADLINED THAT IAKOVOS WOULD COLLECT DOLS 100 MILLION DOLLARS FOR GREECE

5. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE GREEK NATIONAL RADIO SERVICE AUGUST 20, IAKOVOS UNDERLINED THE STRONG INTEREST OF GREEK-AMERICANS IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND HE DECLARED THAT HE PERSONALLY--"AND ALL GREEK-AMERICANS"--ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEY "HAVE A VOICE" AND THAT THEIR VOICE WILL BE EFFECTIVE BECAUSE THEIR CAUSE IS JUST. IAKOVOS USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRONGLY PRAISE PM CARAMANLIS AND HER ASSERTED THAT CURRENT GREEK UNITY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ATTAINED WITHOUT CARAMANLIS.

6. IAKOVOS EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT BETTER DAYS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FOR BOTH CYPRUS AND GREEKS AND HIS BELIEF THAT "AFTER MORE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL UNDERSTAND THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AND WILL ADJUST HIS ORIGINAL POSITIONS."

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 05956 211900Z

7. GREEK PRESS REPORTS THAT IAKOVOS WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AUGUST 23 AND PRESIDENT FORD AUGUST 24.  
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